

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 00303 201414Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 AID-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2369
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 0303

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: FT PINT PORG OAU
SUBJ: OAU AND TFAI

SUMMARY: SENIOR OAU OFFICIAL HAS EXPRESSED FOLLOWING VIEWS ON
DJIBOUTI: A) HE OPTIMISTIC OVER POSSIBILITY OF PEACEFUL TRANSITION
TO INDEPENDENCE IN TFAI, B) GOF MAY INVITE OAU AND ARAB LEAGUE
TO OBSERVE REFERENDUM AND ELECTIONS, C) FRENCH MILITARY
PRESENCE LIKELY AFTER INDEPENDENCE, D) INDEPENDENCE LIKELY PRIOR
TO OAU LIBREVILLE SUMMIT, E) OAU LIVERATION COMMITTEE DISCUSSION
ON DJIBOUTI ISSUE DURING LUSAKA MEETING WOULD BE PRO-FORMA.
END SUMMARY.

1. IN DECEMBER 18 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS, OAU ASSISTANT SEC GEN
PETER ONU EXPRESSED OPTIMISM OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN FRENCH SONALI-
LAND. HE STATED HE HAD ALWAYS BEEN OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE
OF DJIBOUTI AND THAT, OTHER THAN A FEW "INCIDENTS" DURING ELEC-
TIONS, HE EXPECTED A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE.
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 00303 201414Z

HE INDICATED SATISFACTION WITH UN RESOLUTION TO INDPENDENCE.
HE INDICATED SATISFACTION WITH UN RESOLUTION ON DJIBOUTI,
AND EXPRESSED VIEW THAT PRESIDENT SIAD'S STATEMENT AFTER
ORIGIANL SOMALI RESERVATIONS HAD CLARIFIED GSDR POSITION
AS BEING ONE OF NON-INTERVENTION.

2. ONU STATED THAT OAU EXPECTING TO RECEIVE FROM GOF IN VERY NEAR FUTURE INVITATION TO OBSERVE APRIL REFERENDUM AND ELECTIONS. HE STATED OAU WOULD TASK COMMITTEE FOR EIGHT, WHO HAD CARRIED OUT OAU FACT-FINDING MISSION ON DJIBOUTI, WITH OBSERVER ROLE. HE ALSO INDICATED POSSIBILITY THAT ARAB LEAGUE AND UN WOULD BE INVITED TO OBSERVE. AFTER EMBOFF COMMENTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO ANNOUNCEMENT ON ELECTIONS IN TFAI, ONU NOTED NO DECISION YET MADE, BUT ELECTIONS WERE INEVITABLE. ONU STATED ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD WITHIN MONTH. TFAI POLITICIANS PREPARING FOR ELECTIONS, AND THAT LPAI COULD NOT LIVE IN LONG RUN WITH STATUS QUO IN DJIBOUTI. HE CHARACTERIZED HASSAN GUOULED AS A FATHER FIGURE, AND STATED AHMED DINI REAL POWER OF LPAI.

3. ONU NOTED EPMG HAD MORE APPREHENSIONS OVER PRESENT SITUATION THAN SOMALIA, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW FACT ITS VITAL INTERESTS AT STAKE. HE THOUGHT PARIS CONFERENCE WOULD DECIDE MAJOR ISSUES AND PREDICTED ALL PARTIES, INCLUDING MPL WOULD ATTEND. ONU CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT THERE WOULD BE FRENCH MILITARY PRESENCE IN DJIBOUTI AFTER INDEPENDENCE, CALMLY NOTING THAT AFRICANS READILY ACCEPTED FACT THAT FRENCH MAINTAINED MILITARY PRESENCE IN SEVERAL AFRICAN STATES. INDEPENDENCE WOULD COME BEFORE OAU LIBREVILLE SUMMIT, ONU STATED, SO THAT DJIBOUTI COULD TAKE ITS SEAT AT OAU SUMMIT.

4. ONU NOTED OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE WOULD DISCUSS PRO FORMA TFAI QUESTION DURING ITS JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 3 MEETING IN LUSAKA. HE NOTED AOU HAD SMALL FUND FOR NEWLY-ESTABLISHED STATES, AND THAT DJIBOUTI WOULD PROBABLY RECEIVE SOME ASSISTANCE FROM THAT FUND.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ADDIS 00303 201414Z

5. COMMENT: IF ELECTIONS HELD PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE, LIKELIHOOD IS THAT LPAI WOULD IMPROVE ITS POLITICAL POSITION, AS NO DOUBT WOULD AHMED DINI. ANY INCREASE IN DINI'S POWER WOULD BE CLEAR CAUSE FOR CONCERN BY EPMG WHICH CONSIDERS DINI AS HEAD OF PRO-SOMALI FACTION OF TFAI.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Subject: OAU AND TFAI SUMMARY: SENIOR OAU OFFICIAL HAS EXPRESSED FOLLOWING VIEWS ON DJIBOUTI: A) HE OPTIMISTIC OVER POSSIBILITY OF PEAC
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